

On page 6 before the first sentence of the last paragraph beginning with "By a specific binding ligand is meant one which..." please add the following heading.

C DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

On page 27, before the second full paragraph, please add the following heading.

C BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the last paragraph on page 30 which bridges page 31 with the following amended paragraph.

C1 Rabbit antibody specific for human TCII and with an apparent binding constant $>5 \times 10^9 \text{ M}^{-1}$ was immobilized on 1 μm magnetizable microspheres coated with goat anti-rabbitIgG antibody (Indica Diagnostics). Serum samples of 400 μL each from 49 healthy volunteers were mixed with an equal volume of PBS and 40 μL of the immobilized antibody (1%). The mixtures were kept at room temperature in the dark for 1 hour and then microspheres were sedimented by using a magnet. The precipitates were washed once with ice-cold wash buffer (PBS plus 0.02% Tween 20) and subsequently resuspended in 50 μL 50 mM dithiothreitol, 0.001% potassium cyanide, and a fixed amount of ^{57}Co -CN-Cobalamin (Amersham) in phosphate buffer, pH 7.5. This was allowed to stand for 30 minutes at room temperature after which 25 μL 0.5M sodium hydroxide was added and 15 minutes later 300 μL Intrinsic Factor immobilized on Dextran (enough to bind 50% of tracer) in borate buffer, pH 8.6. After 1 hour at room temperature, in the dark, samples were centrifuged at 1000g and 4°C for 10 minutes, supernates carefully removed, and pellets counted in a Packard Riastar. The concentration of TCII-bound cobalamin was determined from a standard curve constructed with eight calibrators (0-500 pM of holoTC-II) treated identically to samples. 37 serum samples were also analysed with respect to total serum cobalamin by using the Abbot IMx B12 assay.